

Sutton Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting minutes
June 15, 2004 @ 7 PM
Sutton Town Hall

Attendees: Dan Sunquist, Leon Malan, Dave Donovan, Susan Uhl, John Sullivan

We opened the meeting with a discussion of what had been done to bring new comers up to speed. Dan spoke to the overlay process with the co occurrence of natural resources in prime areas. He specifically mentioned a prime wetland shared between Sutton and Wilmot, where a major aquifer exists, and habitat is abound. This area should be preserved for future drinking water supply. He mentioned possibly a Planning Board /public forum presentation was an opportunity to run through the mapping for feedback on the process of evaluating the resources.

John mentioned that this was a primary goal of the committee's work and that is why we started to create a district overlay, which is directly tied to certain resources. The thought is that a set of performance parameters for development could be installed depending on the resource in that Zone.

Susan Uhl noted that it was her concern the town would restrict land owners from using the land for what they want. She mentioned the GMO as an example and that the Master plan is a document that all else is built on. Dan explained the Master plan and how specific ordinances are written from this document that needs to be voted on by the town. Leon M mentioned that we are far away from the specifics of crafting ordinances.

John noted that the idea of the Master plan is not to restrict development, but to limit bad development. We should be using BMP's (best management practices) and Low Impact Development techniques to protect our water resources. The For instance the overlay districts would deter commercial or heavy development on aquifer recharge area because that would be a conflict. The impervious surface would not allow recharge.

We talked about the compilations list of other town's recommendations and that we could pick and chose what is relevant to our town. The committee never received that list from NHRPC and we should research what some of the other towns are recommending. Susan U. said she would retrieve the Master plans from other towns. We decided on Wilmot, Bradford, New London, Newbury, Sunapee, and Warner.

Dan also mentioned the concerns for Kezar Lake, and that this is the last year that water testing is mandated by court order. The town needs to be sure that we protect this vital resource from further pollution. The high phosphates were suspended by Gypsum years ago to solve the pollution from New London, and this process appears to be losing it's effectiveness. There needs to be a level of protection so that it is clear in the future that there has been no additional increase in phosphorus loading or other pollutants at Kezar Lake.

Our task for the next meeting is to review the other Master Plans at town hall for discussion next meeting. Goal 2, 3 and 7 are to be reviewed by some of the committee to strengthen the wording. What was written in 1988 was pretty concise and in keeping with the questionnaire from 1998, however some conditions have changed that will need improved text. Our task is to insert additional recommendations with more specificity to reflect the desire of the community to preserve and protect rural character.

The discussion focused on some of the items from the last meeting regarding the vision session and asking some other professionals to attend and give input. Leon said it may make more sense to invite the professionals to a meeting that the NHRCP is attending to directly receive the input and incorporate that into the chapter. Leon also stated that we are halfway down the road, and it does not make sense to ask for a vision now, the questionnaire provided the vision. Dan said this group town meeting could be a presentation of the master plan progress for public review and input before the final report is finished.

Next meeting June 29 @ 7PM

Adjourn 8:45 PM